

3. (Once amended) The composition of matter of Claim 1, wherein said:

a) polypeptide:

- i) comprises a mature sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12, or 14;
- ii) is an unglycosylated form of DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- iii) is from a primate, such as a human;
- iv) comprises at least seventeen amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 12;
- v) exhibits at least four nonoverlapping segments of at least seven amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 12;
- vi) is a natural allelic variant of DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- vii) has a length at least about 30 amino acids;
- viii) exhibits at least two non-overlapping epitopes which are specific for a primate DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- ix) is glycosylated;
- x) has a molecular weight of at least 30 kD with natural glycosylation;
- xi) is a synthetic polypeptide;
- xii) is attached to a solid substrate;
- xiii) is conjugated to another chemical moiety;
- xiv) is a 5-fold or less substitution from natural sequence; or
- xv) is a deletion or insertion variant from a natural sequence.

5. (Once amended) The fusion polypeptide of Claim 1, comprising:

- a) mature protein sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12, or 14;
- b) a detection or purification tag, including a FLAG, His6, or Ig sequence; or
- c) sequence of another cytokine receptor protein.

7. (Once amended) A binding compound comprising an antigen binding site from an antibody, which specifically binds to a natural DCRS8 or DCRS9 polypeptide of Claim 1, wherein:

- a) said binding compound is in a container;
- b) said DCRS8 or DCRS9 polypeptide is from a human;
- c) said binding compound is an Fv, Fab, or Fab2 fragment;
- d) said binding compound is conjugated to another chemical moiety; or
- e) said antibody:

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amended

- i) is raised against a peptide sequence of a mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12, or 14;
- ii) is raised against a mature DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- iii) is raised to a purified human DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- iv) is immunoselected;
- v) is a polyclonal antibody;
- vi) binds to a denatured DCRS8 or DCRS9;
- vii) exhibits a K_d to antigen of at least 30 μ M;
- viii) is attached to a solid substrate, including a bead or plastic membrane;
- ix) is in a sterile composition; or
- x) is detectably labeled, including a radioactive or fluorescent label.

12. (Once amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide of Claim 1, wherein said:

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- a) DCRS8 or DCRS9 is from a human; or
- b) said nucleic acid:
 - i) encodes an antigenic peptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12, or 14;
 - ii) encodes a plurality of antigenic peptide sequences of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12, or 14;
 - iii) exhibits identity over at least thirteen nucleotides to a natural cDNA encoding said segment;
 - iv) is an expression vector;
 - v) further comprises an origin of replication;
 - vi) is from a natural source;
 - vii) comprises a detectable label;
 - viii) comprises synthetic nucleotide sequence;
 - ix) is less than 6 kb, preferably less than 3 kb;
 - x) is from a primate;
 - xi) comprises a natural full length coding sequence;
 - xii) is a hybridization probe for a gene encoding said DCRS8 or DCRS9; or
 - xiii) is a PCR primer, PCR product, or mutagenesis primer.

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16. (Once amended) A nucleic acid which:

- a) hybridizes under wash conditions of 30 minutes at 30° C and less than 2M salt to the coding portion of SEQ ID NO: 9 or 11; or
- b) exhibits identity over a stretch of at least about 30 nucleotides to a primate DCRS8 or DCRS9.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Amendment is requested for Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 12, and 16. Support for the amended claims derives from the sequence listings. The requested changes relate to format and to obvious typographical errors. Specifically, the requested changes relate to removal of references to tables containing SEQ ID NOs, removal of sequence listings directed to reverse transcriptions, providing table numbers where none previously existed (tables relating to lists of cell lines).

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by way of amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned, "VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 28, 2001

By: Sheela Mohan-Peterson

Sheela Mohan-Peterson
Reg. No. 41, 201

DNAX Research Institute
901 California Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94304-1104
Tel: 650-496-6400
Fax: 650-496-1200

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